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JOHN ALSTON.

BY A. S. SALLEY, JR.

JOHN ALSTON, the founder of a family distinguished in the annals of South Carolina, was the son of William Alston, gentleman, of Hammersmith (a part of London), Middlesex, and came to South Carolina in 1682 as an apprentice to James Jones, a merchant of Charles Town, as will be seen by the following indenture, which is recorded on page 123 of a book of miscellaneous records of the governor of South Carolina, covering the years 1672-1692:

This Indenture Witnesseth that John Alston the sonne of William Alston of Hamersmith in the County of Midlelxex gent doth put himselfe apprentice to James Jones of the County of Carolina merchant to Learne and follow his Art with him after the manner of an apprentice & to serve him his s^d master the full end & terme of Seaven yeares from the day of the date hereof dureing w^{ch} s^d Terme he the Afores^d. James Jones doth hereby covenant to finde unto his said Apprentice meate, drinke, apparell Lodgeing and all other necessaryes which shall be needfull and convenient for him provided neverthelesse and it is hereby further Agreed by and between the said James Jones and the Afores^d William Alston ffather of the said John that if the s^d. William Alston shall at any tyme or tymes hereafter cause to require or call home to him his s^d. sone within the afores^d. Terme of seaven yeares and before that time be compleated he the s^d. James Jones doth hereby covenant and Oblige himselfe to returne him Carefully (if alive) The said William defraying the money due for his passage into England and returne In Wittness whereof the pties above named to these p^rsent Indentures have put their hands and seales Interchangeably this sixteenth day of May Anno Dni 1682.

John Alstone¹ (x)²

Witnesse

John Nicklis
Joseph Pope

¹This instrument was, of course, recorded by a clerk in Charles Town, and, as usual, little attention was paid to the proper spelling of the name. Subsequent original documents, which are herein given and to which John Alston signed his name, show that he himself spelled the name A-l-s-t-o-n.

²This mark indicates that the original indenture bore a seal of some sort.

Nine years later John Alston, now evidently a merchant on his own responsibility, and about to depart the Province temporarily, executed the following power of attorney to his old preceptor :

Be it knowne unto all men by these presents me John Alston of Berkeley County in Carolina that Whereas I am Now Departeing out of this province, and therefore I doe hereby Impower James Jones of y^e Afforesd County & province to be my Lawfull Attorney & factor for me & in my Name & upon my behalfe & Account to receive all Sum or sums of Mony Marchandize or whatever kind of goods shall be sent from Urope or Else where be the^y to me for my Use & I doe place ye sd James Jones in my stead to have all the right & power to receiue keep sell or Dispose upon whatever goods shall be sent to me in My Absence as if I were here in Carolina my selfe in Witness Whereof I have signed These presents at Carolina ye 23^d day of Febr^y- 1690/1

Jn^o- Alston (x)

Signed Sealed & delivered

in ye Presence of

Jn^o Stewart

Jos: Palmer

ffra: Williams

March ye 17th 1690/1

proved this day before me

and alsoe recorded^s by me

G Muschamp

Sometime between February 8, 1693, when John Harris made his will, and August 13, 1695, John Alston married Mrs. Elizabeth Harris, widow of John Harris and sister of Francis Turgis, Esq.⁴ He was one of the sureties on the bond his wife executed to Governor Blake, on the last date given above, as executrix of Harris's estate.⁵

³On p. 94 of the 1672-1692 book of miscellaneous records of the governor of South Carolina.

⁴John Harris, in his will, dated February 8, 1692/3, appointed his "Loveing Brother M^r: ffancis Turges" one of his executors. (Records of the Governor and Ordinary of the Province of South Carolina, Probate Court, Charleston County, book 1, p. 111.) Francis Turgis married Elizabeth Axtell, daughter of Landgrave Daniel Axtell, and, after Turgis's death, she married Governor Blake.

⁵August 13, 1695, John Alston, gentleman, Mrs. Elizabeth Harris, alias Alston, John Guffell and Thomas Hubbard, all of Berkeley County, executed their bond to Governor Blake for Mrs. Alston's faithful performance of her trust as executrix of the estate of John Harris, gentleman, late of the Province, deceased, her former hus-

John Alston died in 1718 or 1719, leaving issue:⁶

- I. John Alston, who married Deborah ———, and, upon her death, Mrs. Sarah Belin; died in 1750. (Issue.)
- II. William Alston, *m.* Esther LaBruce. (Issue.)
- III. Elizabeth Alston, *m.* Joseph LaBruce, April 6, 1821.⁷ (Issue.)
- IV. Mary Alston, *m.* Joseph Warnock. (Issue.)
- V. Peter Alston, *m.* Sarah Torquet;⁸ buried April 16, 1748. (Issue.)
- VI. Thomasin Alston, *m.* Abraham Warnock. (Issue.)

[As the descendants of the above John, William and Peter Alston have been traced in *The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina* (Groves) they will not be traced here now, notwithstanding the crudities and errors of that work.]

band. Witness: John Hamilton. (Records of the Governor and Ordinary of the Province of South Carolina, P. C., C. Co., book 1, p. 212.)

In a work entitled *The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina* Dr. Joseph A. Groves, of Selma, Ala., suggests that John Alston came over with Governor Archdale. That was purely a guess and the revelation made by the records above quoted shows the usual consequence of guessing in historical work—the wrong guess being usually made.

⁶John Alston, of St. John's, Berkeley, planter, in his will, made January 2, 1718, and proved November 30, 1719, mentions his children, John, William, Elizabeth, Mary, Peter and Thomasin Alston. (*Simms's Magazine*, Vol. II., p. 51.)

⁷Register of St. Thomas and St. Dennis's Parish. The name is there given Joseph Marbeuf. The correct name seems to have been La Bruce de Marbeuf, the first part being the family name and the latter part the place name. The place name was soon dropped.

⁸Register of St. Andrew's Parish.